

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Mundt et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0145828 A1). In response, Applicant amended independent claim 1 to clarify that the airflow guide part is located in a recessed portion of the head slider that is located behind the air bearing surface when viewed in a direction of the air flow, and respectfully traverse the rejection as it applies to the amended claim.

In the rejection, the Examiner identifies an airflow guide part that guides the airflow along a disk-facing surface of the head slider towards sides of the slider as corresponding to the channel 1280 shown in FIG. 12 of Mundt. As shown in the figure, the channel 1280 is formed in the cavity dam upper surface 1132, which corresponds to the air bearing surface or at least a raised surface of the head slider receiving airflow. However, the channel 1280 is not formed in the cavity floors 1144 and 1149. In the recessed portion or cavity floors 1144 and 1149, which are located behind the air bearing surface 1132, there is no airflow guide part for guiding the airflow along the disk-facing surface of the head slider toward sides of the disk-facing surface.

In contrast, as shown in FIG. 1 of the present application, an inflow side end 30 of a head slider 10 has front pads 40 and 42 that receive airflow therethrough. (See also FIG. 2B). The airflow 28 passes between the front pads 40 and 42 and is redirected by the airflow guide part 52 in a direction shown by arrows A and B. That is, airflow is directed toward the sides of the head slider 10. The airflow guide part 52 is

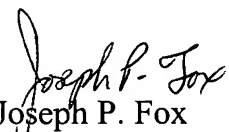
located at a recessed part or disk-facing surface 12 that is positioned adjacent to and behind the front pads 40 and 42 when viewed in a direction of the airflow 28. Since Mundt fails to disclose an airflow guide part that is located in a recessed portion of the head slider when viewed in a direction of the airflow, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

New claim 10 is added to further define the front pads of the head slider, and also the direction of airflow that is directed between the front pads toward the airflow guide part. For the additional features that this claim recites, and also for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, allowance of new claim 10 is earnestly solicited.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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